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self in the Dutch and German languages, in which he took more interest than in any others, because Germans carried on at Moscow some of the manufactures which he wished to promote in his empire; and the Dutch excelled in navigation, which he considered the most important of all arts.

Peter listened eagerly to all accounts of the manners and customs of other nations, and made a determination, when he came into power, to place more confidence in the advice of foreigners, as regarded military affairs, than in that of his own countrymen. He constituted the Genevese, Lefort, his friend and preceptor, and confided implicitly in him. With his aid he organised a band of fifty young men, who were trained and clothed in the Danish fashion, and called the Guards of the Poteschnaia, of whom Lefort was made captain. The Emperor himself joined the new guard, and, wishing to gain his own promotion step by step, even began by being a drummer. This little regiment gradually increased, and some of its members were sent to learn boat-building at Venice and Leghorn; others ship-building, and the management of large vessels, in Holland.

Subsequently, wishing to change his plan of placing foreign generals at the head of his troops, he received a good lesson on the subject from a lady, who was related to the first families in the town, and whose superior intellectual attainments procured her great influence in public affairs. In the course of a conversation which Peter held with her on state affairs, he

informed her that he was levying a fresh supply of troops in his empire.

"Will there be any foreign officers in command?" asked she.

"No," replied the Czar; "my lieutenants are now sufficiently informed to provide me with as good soldiers and officers as I desire."

"You make a mistake," said the lady. She then argued the point for some time, without being able to change his opinion.

Some days afterwards the Czar, who had come to see her, inquired how her music went on, which he had not heard for some time.

"Your Majesty," replied she, "shall judge to-night at supper."

She secretly gave orders that the orchestra should be entirely composed of the natives of the country. The concert commenced, and the execution grated upon the ears of the audience. All the guests were surprised, but the lady did not seem to notice anything unusual. At length the Emperor asked her how it was that her music, which was formerly so excellent, had become so bad.

"These are the same musicians," replied she, "with the exception of the foreigners, whom I have discharged."

"I understand you, madam," said Peter; "you are right."

He changed his opinion, and ordered that, for the future, a third of his officers should be foreigners.

THE CHIMPANZEE.

MONKEYS, from their human-like form and the ease with which they mimic many human actions, have attracted the attention of mankind in all ages. Nay, there have not been wanting those who, pretending to the title of philosophers, have maintained that man himself is only, as it were, a better sort of monkey, or at all events merely a creature produced by the more perfect development of the type of structure presented by the highest of these animals. The Chimpanzee, say the supporters of this doctrine, is by no means so far removed from the negro as to render the conversion of the one into the other at all impossible. But if we compare this creature, which is admitted by all zoologists to make the nearest approach in its structure to the physical conformation of man, with the very lowest and least intelligent of the human race, we shall find the differences so great, as vastly to outweigh the resemblances and render several intermediate gradations of development necessary, before we can arrive from the most man-like monkey at the lowest and most ape-like of human beings.

Like other monkeys, the Chimpanzee possesses four hands, that is to say, the hinder feet, instead of being fitted as in man for walking on the ground, are converted into hands to assist him in climbing trees, his ordinary place of abode being amongst the branches. He progresses, in fact, very awkwardly when in an upright position, as the sole of his foot cannot be brought flat to the ground, and he is obliged to walk merely on the outside of it, with his toes drawn up in a very cramped and uncomfortable position. The thumb of these hinder hands is by no means so perfect as that of the true hands of the anterior members; but even these, when compared with the same organs in man, will be found very inferior in point of perfection. The thumb is much shorter and incapable of being brought into those varied relations with the other fingers which enable the human hand to perform such a vast variety of operations with so much delicacy and precision. In the form of the head, too, the difference is, perhaps, even still more striking. Instead of the large cranium required to contain the brain of a human being, the adult Chimpanzee, like his congeners, has a flat retreating forehead, with a large ridge over the eyes for the attachment of the strong muscles of the jaws. In the young animal the forehead is higher, and the ridge just mentioned far less distinct, so that the creature has then a much more intelligent and amiable aspect than at a

later period of its existence; and as most, if not all, the specimens which have been brought alive to Europe have been young, a false impression of their intelligence and docility and also of their external resemblance to the human race has been produced, for it appears that when arrived at maturity they acquire, along with great powers of mischief, every inclination to employ them.

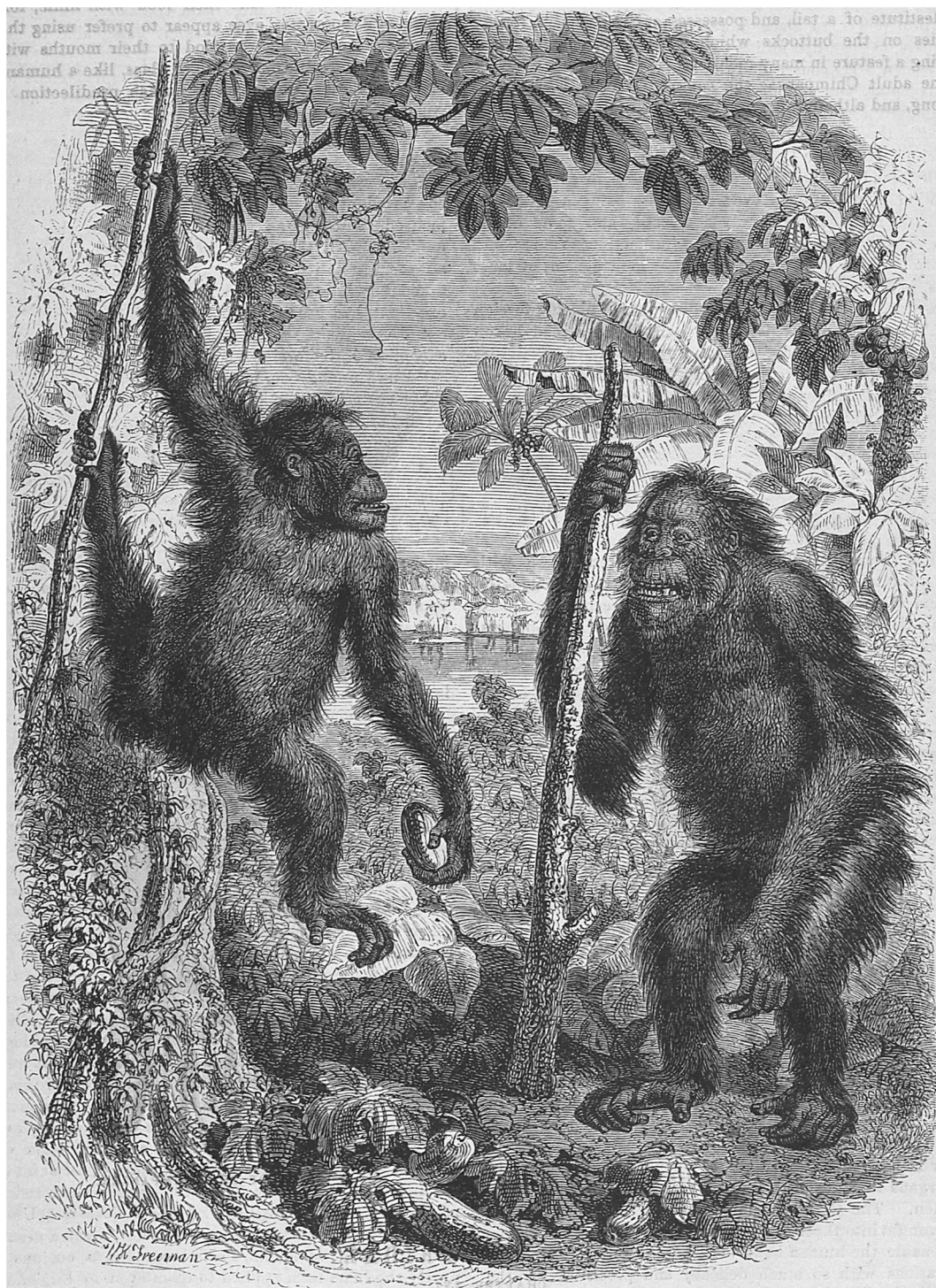
The Chimpanzee (*Troglodytes niger*) is a native of the west coast of Africa, where it is said to attain a stature equal to that of man. Travellers who have visited these countries relate many curious stories of the chimpanzees. They are said to live in large societies in the forest, to walk erect, build huts to protect them from the burning heat of the tropical sun and from the violent rains which are equally characteristic of those regions, and to make use of heavy sticks or clubs in their combats among themselves or with the other inhabitants of the forests. They are also said occasionally to carry off negro women and children into the woods, and instances are related in which the people so abducted were detained amongst them for a considerable time. Most of these extraordinary tales are probably, however, to be ascribed entirely to the imaginations of the natives, who would be very likely to invest an animal so nearly resembling the human race in appearance, with many of the attributes of humanity, and would certainly be by no means reluctant to relate these marvellous stories, perhaps with some extemporaneous embellishments, for the edification of credulous strangers.

Two thousand years ago, Hanno, a Carthaginian voyager, brought with him, on his return to Carthage, the skins of three specimens, either of this, or of the newly-discovered nearly-allied species, the Gorilla (*Troglodytes Gorilla*). Under the name of "wild women," they, no doubt, made a great figure in the "yarns" of Hanno's sailors; and it is curious to find nearly the same term applied to them even in England in the present day; for a specimen, which was exhibited some few years since in this country, was honoured by its owner with the appellation of "The Wild Maid of the Desert," and doubtless endowed by him with many wonderful qualities.

It would appear from the evidence of trustworthy authorities that the Chimpanzee does not live in large communities, forming rude villages, but rather in pairs, building a rude

habitation in the trees, at a height of thirty, or even forty feet from the ground. They feed on fruits, and on the bunches of young succulent leaves in the centre of the heads of palms, known as the "cabbage" to English settlers in

ingly palatable food, in spite of a tradition which is said to prevail amongst some of them, that the Chimpanzees were once members of their own tribe, but were expelled for the filthiness and depravity of their habits.



THE CHIMPANZEE (TROGLODYTES NIGER).

warm climates. They climb with great ease, swinging themselves from branch to branch with astonishing agility. Their human-like form does not prevent their being eaten by the negroes, who regard a well-cooked Chimpanzee as an exceed-

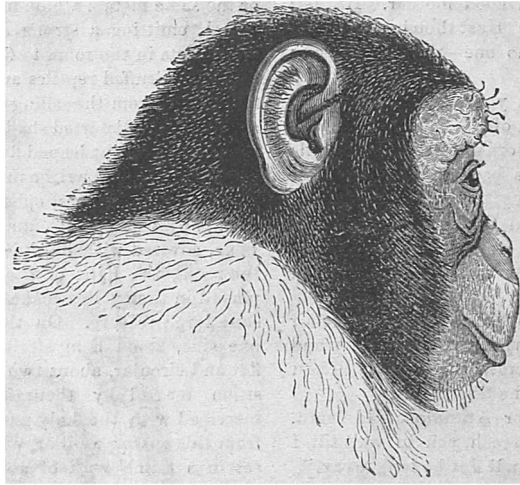
The Chimpanzee is thickly clothed with long black hair on the back of the head, the shoulders, and back. All the fore parts of the body are very thinly clad. The face is brownish and nearly naked. The limbs are covered with shorter hair

than the back, and the hairs of the fore-arm are very curiously turned back towards the elbow. The arms, although long, are not so disproportionate to the size of the animal as those of some of the nearly-allied apes. The hands in the Chimpanzee only reach the knees when the animal stands upright, whilst in the Orang-Outang and the Gibbon, or Long-armed ape, they nearly, if not quite, touch the ground. The animal is quite destitute of a tail, and possesses only a trace of those callosities on the buttocks which form so prominent and disgusting a feature in many monkeys, especially the baboons.

In the adult Chimpanzee the canine teeth are very large and strong, and although not nearly so powerful, in proportion

to the size of the creature, as those of some of the large baboons, they constitute most formidable weapons of offence, and an unarmed man would stand but a poor chance in a contest with one of these animals.

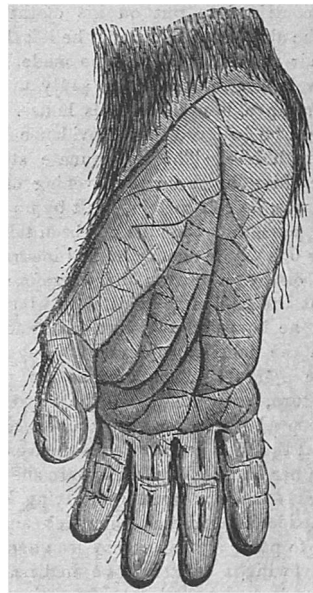
In captivity, especially when quite young, the animals are exceedingly docile, and imitate many human actions to great perfection. They will take their food with knife, fork, and spoon, and sometimes even appear to prefer using these implements, to conveying the food to their mouths with their hands. They drink from a cup or glass, like a human being, and occasionally evince a very human predilection for intoxicating liquors.



HEAD OF THE CHIMPANZEE.



HAND OF THE CHIMPANZEE.



FOOT OF THE CHIMPANZEE.

THE DEAD BRIDAL.

CHAPTER XXI.

It was the third day after that upon which Bianca Morosini fell ill. In a room of a mean house in the quarter of San Barnabo a young man lay upon a pallet. An old woman, in the attire of the poorest of the people, sat beside him and watched him as he slept. At length the sleeper awoke and opened his eyes.

"What hour is it, good mother?"

"It is just sunset, signore. The Ave Maria is ringing."

"Ah, then I have slept many hours, and feel much refreshed."

"The saints be praised!" said the old woman, "the mediciner said that the fever was gone, and that when you woke all danger would be over. Ah, Signor Giulio, he says you had a narrow escape; had the wound been an inch deeper it